

West Caldwell Report

Your Official Community Newsletter



www.westcaldwell.com

May 2009

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2009 Municipal Budget Preparation

The Township is finalizing the 2009 budget for introduction, somewhat later this year as a result of the State's budget progress. At present, the 2009 Budget anticipates an increase of approximately four cents in the municipal tax levy, or 4% over the 2008 Budget – a decrease of one cent as compared to last year's increase. Preparation of this year's budget reflects a number of challenges, including continued reductions in State aid (\$56,000), approximately \$55,000 in expenses due to the unusual snowfall this winter, and the ongoing

increases in benefit, utility contract and other non-discretionary costs. To balance these upward pressures, and in recognition of the current economic climate, the Township is making significant reductions while committing to maintaining service levels. These savings include staff reductions through attrition, and over \$100,000 reduction in other operating expenditures.

At the same time, the Township plans to continue necessary infrastructure improvements and

maintenance by incorporating grant funding and capital reserves. The Township will utilize approximately 94% of cash surplus, or \$1,900,000, to stabilize the Municipal Tax levy, reserving the balance for pending tax appeals.

The Mayor, Council, and staff are acutely aware of the current tight financial environment. The Township is making every effort to keep the municipal tax burden down, while still protecting residents' and businesses' property values and maintaining the community's high quality of life.

Recreation Department Welcomes Programs

The West Caldwell - Caldwell Recreation Department's spring programs, including Baseball, Softball and Youth Track, are up and running. The Recreation Department is proud to announce its new program for children in grades three through eight, Speed and Agility Training, with Don Sellari of Sports University.

This summer, Recreation is offering Summer Playgrounds, Tot Lot and Teen Camp. The Summer Playgrounds Program, which will run from June 24 through July 31, is for children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. Due to the construction activity planned for several of the district schools, Recreation will be offering 'half-day, sunshine only' Playground programs this year. These

programs will be held at the following sites: Francisco Park, Memorial Park, Jefferson School and Westville Pool. The hours are 8:30am – noon and the fee is \$100. 'Sunshine only' means that should it be raining at 8:30, the sites will be closed. If the weather clears, there will be a 10:00am opening. Additional fees are charged for off-site special events on a participation basis. A calendar of events will be distributed on opening day.

The Tot Lot Program will run from June 24 through July 31. The program, held at Wilson School, is for four and five year olds. Children must be four years of age by September 1, 2009.

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Come to the library for dinner and discussion about the book and film adaptation of 'The Great Gatsby' on June 15!



Jazz Up Your Summer at the Library

The library is happy to announce its third annual Adult Summer Reading Club! This year's book club title is **The Fisher King** by Paule Marshall. The rules are simple: read or listen to one of the suggested titles and receive a gift drawing entry to win an iPod! Any additional titles will result in additional entry into prize drawings. There will be a number of additional prize drawings for advanced reader's editions of new titles throughout the summer. Submit a book review and have it featured in the library's listserv and a special book display. Registration opens June 15.

The following programs are free and open to the public but registration is required and limited. Contact the library to register for any of these programs at 973-226-5441.

- Jazz up your summer with light dinner and discussion

comparing the book and film versions of F. Scott Fitzgerald's **The Great Gatsby** on **Monday, June 15th from 4:30PM - 7:30PM.**

- Jazz up your finances at the West Caldwell Public Library with the a free seminar on Understanding Money & Credit, presented by the New Jersey Center for Financial Education and Consumer Credit Counseling Services, on **Tuesday, June 23rd at 7:00PM.**
- Jazz up your summer and join us as jazz saxophonist Shenole Latimer presents "**What's All This Jazz About**" on **Sunday, June 28th at 2:00PM.**
- You're invited to our classic jazz film festival for a free screening of **The Glenn Miller Story** on **Monday, July 13th at 6:00PM.**
- Residents are invited to our classic jazz film festival and a free screening of **The Benny Goodman Story** on **Monday, July 20th at 6:00PM.**
- You're invited to a book discussion of **The Fisher King** by Paule Marshall on **Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:30PM.**
- Join us for a free screening of **Lady Sings the Blues** on **Monday, August 3rd at 6:00PM.**
- Join us for our classic jazz film festival and a free screening of **Round Midnight** on **Monday, August 10th at 6:00PM.**
- You're invited to jazz up your summer with our **Swinging Jazz Party**, and test your reading knowledge with Literary Jeopardy to win fun prizes on **Monday, August 17th.**

(Continued on page five)

Feeling nostalgic? Purchase a West Caldwell street sign for just \$15. Call 973-226-2300, ext. 3400, for more information!

Signs of Change Continue

The Department of Public Works will conclude its program of replacing street signs throughout the township within the next few months. Bill Payne, Public Works Committee Chairman, said the changeover would be complete by the end of May. The replacement program, which began in the spring of 2008, is in response to new Federal and State regulations mandating the upgrade. All street sign units are required to have more visible names with larger letters and must be of a more reflective quality.

According to Payne, about 125 of the township's 155 streets already have the new

signs in place. The remaining 30 streets are located in the area north of Bloomfield Avenue, between Central Avenue and east of Passaic Avenue.

Of the more than 500 signs being replaced, residents have purchased nearly 350 as gifts or for their own enjoyment as a nostalgic remembrance. Signs are priced at \$15.00 each.

Individuals interested in purchasing any of the remaining signs on a first come, first served basis should call the Department of Public Works at 973-226-2300, Ext. 3400, to place an order.

Safety Tips from the Police Department

As the warm weather is approaching, the West Caldwell Police Department offers the following tips for homeowners:

- Call the West Caldwell Police @ 973-226-4114 if you observe anything out of the ordinary in your neighborhood
- Lock ALL doors and windows when you are not home
- Use exterior lighting on the outside of your home during the evening hours
- Use timers on interior lights when you are not at home
- Cancel delivery of newspapers and mail when out of town

- Complete a "Vacant House" form at police headquarters, 21 Clinton Road, when out of town for extended periods
- Notify your neighbors when you are on vacation

The Police Department will conduct security surveys for residences and businesses on request, and these surveys may be scheduled by contacting the Police Department.

Please call the West Caldwell Police Department at 973-226-4114 with any questions.

All children under the age of eight or under 80 pounds must be in a car seat or booster seat when in a motor vehicle

Health Department Announces Events

Spring into action and attend one of the Health Department's free or discounted screenings this season! Councilman Richard Otterbein, representative to the Board of Health, invites residents to attend the Health Department's various clinics, screenings and health promotion events this spring.

The Health Department's

Skin Cancer Screening will be held on Wednesday, August 5, from 1:00 – 3:00pm. This health screening will be held at the Westville Pool, located on Westville Ave., and will include a risk assessment, education and full body exam by a dermatologist.

The Health Department continues to offer its free

monthly Blood Pressure Screening on the second Thursday of each month, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., at the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road. Residents are invited to meet with nurses for a blood pressure check and education about heart disease and related risks. No blood pressure checks will be held in July or August.



Pandemic Influenza: Your Voice is Needed

Residents may recall that in the Fall 2006 issue of the *West Caldwell Health Resource* newsletter, the topic of pandemic influenza was addressed, and the risks associated with the virus were described. In light of the recent H1N1 influenza concerns, we wish to inform you of some recent planning activities.

The Health Department, in conjunction with Police, Fire, the School Board, Emergency Management,

Administration and several other entities, has developed, reviewed and updated pandemic response plans. The Township has a viable plan and is modifying it as data is derived about the most recent influenza threat.

You, too, can make a difference during an emergent event. Residents are invited to join the area Community Emergency Response (CERT) team, or the Medical Reserve Corps

(MRC). Interested residents need not have a medical background to be volunteers in times of disease outbreaks or other crises.

At its onset, the H1N1 influenza has generally manifested as a mild disease, but should regional rates of transmission change, you will want to remain informed. Please go to www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu all the latest information on this virus, or call the Health Department at 973-226-2303.

If you wish to help during a community wide emergency, become a Medical Reserve Corps member! Call 973-325-3212 for details

Municipal Upgrades: Road to Improvement

Councilman Bill Payne, Public Works Committee Chairman, announced that the Township has received a \$260,000 NJDOT grant for roadway and curb improvements on Dalewood Road. Area residents will receive a letter explaining details of the project, which is expected to be ready for construction this summer. Councilman Payne also reported that Woodrow Place reconstruction is being planned, with

roadway, curbing and drainage currently in the design phase. Area residents will receive a detailed letter when plans are complete.

Councilman Joe Cecere, Water Committee Chairman, reports completion of the replacement of 5,400 feet of the water main in Dalewood Road, Walden Place, Piermont Place and Woodrow Place. All homes on these streets are now connected to the new water main.

If you are planning any outdoor projects this spring or summer, like a shed, fence or pool, please contact our Zoning Officer at 973-226-2302!

Did you know that all structures and premises are to be kept free of dead and dying trees, limbs or other natural growth?

Property Maintenance - Helpful Reminders

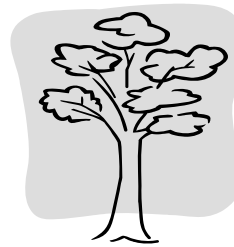
Maintenance of Sidewalks

The West Caldwell Building Department would like you to be aware that our street and sidewalk ordinance requires the owner or owners of any property abutting a public street to maintain the public sidewalks in front of the property.

Now may be a good time to take advantage of low oil prices to repair or replace asphalt sidewalks, and to take advantage of the availability of contractors to repair or replace concrete and asphalt sidewalks. You may also wish to take advantage of cooperative pricing benefits by combining projects with other neighbors who also need sidewalk maintenance.

Please bear in mind that sidewalk permits are required at a very nominal fee, and that our Engineering Department is required to approve and inspect all sidewalk reconstruction to insure compliance with Township engineering specifications.

If you have any issues resulting from the proximity of Township owned shade trees, please consult with the Public Works department at 973-226-2300. If you have any questions regarding permits or specifications, then please contact the Building Department at 973-226-2302, or the Engineering Department at 973-226-2301.



Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs

The West Caldwell Building Department would like you to be aware that our property maintenance ordinance requires that all structures and premises be kept free of dead and dying trees, limbs or other natural growths. In addition, trees are required to be kept pruned and trimmed to prevent such conditions.

Our property maintenance ordinance also requires that all brush, shrubs, grass and trees be maintained so as not to obstruct access to public sidewalks and roadways. Brush, shrubs and trees are required to be kept trimmed so that they do not cross the line of the sidewalk from the ground to a height of seven feet.

Our zoning ordinance requires that on corner lots, no fence, structure or plant over 30 inches in height shall be erected or maintained that will or could obstruct traffic visibility. The minimum clear corner area of the property shall be a triangle, two sides of which shall be coincident with the street right-of-way lines, with each such side having a length of 25 feet measured from the property corner.

Shade trees are permitted within said clear corner area provided they are trimmed to a height at least 10 feet above the street pavement. Thank you for your attention to these requirements.

Recreation is Up and Running

(Continued from page one)

Children who have attended Kindergarten are not eligible, and proof of age must be shown at time of registration. The first session is from 8:30am to 10:00am, and the second session is 10:30am to noon. There is a \$60 registration fee, and the program is limited to 75 children in each of the two sessions. The program consists of special days, free play, games and arts and crafts. This is also a sunshine only program.

Recreation is sponsoring a Teen Camp program for children who have completed

sixth through eight grades. The goal is to offer young teens a fun site during the summer vacation. Teens will be able to participate in sports, games, arts and crafts, and will attend special trips. The program will be held at Essex Valley School, Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 12:00pm, sunshine only, starting June 24 and ending on July 31. The fee is \$100.

For further information, please contact the Recreation office at 973-226-3621 or visit the township's website at www.westcaldwell.com.

West Caldwell has been awarded \$173,860 in Community Development Block Grants for various Township improvements

Music in the Air: Gazebo Concert Series!



This summer's Gazebo concert series will be held Thursday evenings on the following dates:

- July 9 July 16
- July 23 July 30
- August 6 August 13

Concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Crane Park. Our line up of entertainment will be available soon and is sure to please. Check the Township website soon for details at www.westcaldwell.com.

Residents are invited to a free seminar, Understanding Money & Credit, at the West Caldwell Public Library on Tuesday, June 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Jazz Up Your Summer at the Library

(Continued from page two)

The Youth Services Department is hard at work preparing for another exciting Summer Reading Club. This year's theme is *Be Creative @ Your Library*.

We will be kicking off Summer Reading with a performance by Yosi (www.yosimusic.com) at 6:30pm on Wednesday June 3rd. After schools are out for the summer break, we

will have various weekly programs for children ages three to 11. Children are encouraged to sign up for the Summer Reading Club. For every hour they read, they earn a chance to win one of several stupendous gift baskets. The summer Reading Club runs from Monday June 22 through Friday August 7th, with a closing performance by singer Allan Lieberman ([http://www.allan-](http://www.allan-lieberman.com/)

[lieberman.com/](http://www.allan-lieberman.com/)) on Monday August 10th at 2:00pm.

Students entering grade six and up can participate in their own Summer Reading Club *Express Yourself @ Your Library*. They will have the opportunity to read, answer trivia questions and win prizes. They may also attend evening Talk It Up and More meetings for book discussions and other fun activities.

**Township of
West Caldwell**
30 Clinton Road
West Caldwell, NJ

Phone
973-226-2300

Email
mail@westcaldwell.com

Online
www.westcaldwell.com

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Fire Prevention Bureau Offers Warm Weather Safety Tips

With spring in the air, West Caldwell residents are emerging from their winter cocoons to focus on long-neglected projects like spring cleaning, home repairs and yard work, and to enjoy the warm weather. While these activities provide enjoyment, they also present some fire safety issues that can be avoided with the proper precautions. The West Caldwell Fire Prevention Bureau offers the following fire safety tips to help ensure everyone in our community stays safe this season:

- Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety direction on the packaging.
- Never mix chemicals in the same container.
- If you don't know how to dispose of chemicals, seek outside advice.
- Never put chemicals into the trash or pour down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets.
- Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts or floors.
- Clean up work areas.
- Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches or other work items away from children's reach.
- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage.
- Designate the grilling areas a "No Play Zone," keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Before using, position your grill at least 10 feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.
- Always stay by the grill when cooking
- Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line to be sure it is working properly and not leaking.
- Never use a match to check for leaks.
- If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.
- Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.